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**NOONAN URGES LAW STUDENTS TO FIGHT FOR HUMANITARIAN CAUSES
AT DEDICATION OF NEW HOME FOR UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON'S LAW SCHOOL**

DAYTON, Ohio — A Catholic law school should prepare future lawyers to be kind and to argue for three "great causes in the world" — religious liberty, freedom from corruption in government and human life.

"At the heart of a Catholic law school is the education of lawyers — lawyers kind to each other in conflict before the courts and kind to each other in their employment practices, so that the senior partners in large firms do not enjoy enormous incomes while the young associates have their lives sucked dry by work, by the strip mining as it's been called of the best of our young professionals," Judge John T. Noonan told 600 faculty, students and guests at the Oct. 4 dedication and blessing of Joseph E. Keller Hall, the \$23 million new home for the University of Dayton School of Law.

Noonan, a judge in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and a prolific scholar whose writings have focused on law, morality and conscience, urged legal professionals to work to overcome the "surprising negative" of the Supreme Court's recent invalidation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. "A Catholic law school cannot ignore the need to improve the international mechanism provisions of our own law that can be used to protect the free exercise of faith by believers," Noonan said. "The very term 'Catholic' is a commitment to the community of the globe that now suffers at the most fundamental level of free response to God."

For too long law schools have ignored bribery as a subject to study, he contended. "Bribery eats at the trust necessary for lawful authority to act and distorts the distribution of goods, especially in programs of foreign aid. It is the cancer of many countries," he said. "It is a domestic issue. It is an international issue. It is a legal issue."

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No Catholic law school can avoid making human life a central topic, according to Noonan. "Human life now. . . is legally ended at its beginning and (its) protection at its end is, after the recent Supreme Court decisions on assisted suicide, still open to serious legal challenges."

Noonan's remarks highlighted a 90-minute ceremony to celebrate the opening of Keller Hall, one of a handful of law schools in the country with every seat wired for computer technology, according to the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, a nonprofit consortium of 170 law schools. With 1,400 data network outlets and approximately 400 miles of wiring, the building has been described as a showcase for preparing lawyers to practice law in the information age.

"Good legal education is much more than sophistication and information technology," said Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton. "The School of Law will develop graduates who are not only on the leading edge of information technology but are also distinctive in the habits of heart and mind, (traits) that will allow them to have compassion and critical thinking to service all people."

Joseph E. Keller Hall is named for a 1930 University of Dayton law graduate and a prominent Washington, D.C., attorney who died in 1994. His handwritten \$5 million check underwrote half of a \$10 million fund-raising effort.